

Your file:

Our file:

18:03 (67727)

700/ISE/...../.....

FROM: Wellington C80806/WLN 14-Apr-2010

TO: London Immediate

MFAT

Subject

PROCEDURES FOR DETAINEES IN AFGHAN CUSTODY: INFORMATION SOUGHT FROM UK CONTACTS

Summary

-- New Zealand SAS provided technical support for the Afghan Crisis Response Unit's apprehension and arrest of five suspected suicide bombers and associated explosives hauls around Kabul city. The five individuals are now in Afghan custody. Based on the UK's experience with such incidents, we seek urgent information from UK contacts in London on the likely process and outcome of the detainment, PSR(S)1

End Summary

Action

Grateful LON contact FCO, to seek information on the UK Government's procedures for detainees in Afghan custody, as per the questions outlined below.

Report

Late last week New Zealand SAS were involved in providing technical support for the Afghan Crisis Response Unit's apprehension and arrest of five suspected suicide bombers in Kabul. The bombers were discovered with suicide vests and cellphones. After following-up on intelligence, the CRU, with support from British and New Zealand SAS, found huge amounts of explosives in locations around Kabul city. The five individuals are now in Afghan custody.

2 The events have been reported in the international media, including the Associated Press and Stars and Stripes, although there has been no reference to the New Zealand involvement. However, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) Admiral Stavridis, during his visit to New Zealand 11-12 April, made an oblique reference to the events in a

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Dominion Post interview - "A local police unit that foiled a suicide attack by five bombers last week was trained by New Zealanders".

3 Ministers Mapp and McCully have requested more information on what has happened to the five individuals. Our preliminary view is that New Zealand's legal obligations are clear in this case, given the Afghan National Security Forces captured the five individuals, who are now in Afghan custody. But, not least from a human rights perspective, we would be interested in more information on the status, treatment and likely legal process of the five individuals.

PSR(IC)4, PSR(S)1

End Message

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